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LETTER DATED 4 AUGUST 1994 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF FRANCE TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

You will find attached, in implementation of paragraph 10 of Security Council resolution 929 (1994) of 22 June 1994, the second report on the implementation of Operation Turquoise, covering the period 10-25 July 1994.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hervé LADSOUX
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Operation Turquoise: developments from 10 to 25 July 1994

I. TROOP CONTINGENT

Operation Turquoise is commanded by General Lafourcade, who has at his disposal an inter-service theatre command post (PCIAT) at Goma linked to the Paris Inter-Service Operational Centre.

The troop contingent is made up of the following components:

- (a) A north forces subgroup composed of three combat units in Kibuye;
- (b) A south forces subgroup made up of two combat units in Cyangugu;
- (c) A specialized subgroup in Gikongoro;
- (d) A detachment of fighter aircraft at Kisangani;
- (e) Three transit bases in Bangui, Libreville and Douala.

As of 25 July, the troop contingent consisted of 2,555 French soldiers and 339 African soldiers (243 from Senegal, 10 from Mauritania, 7 from Egypt, 44 from Chad and 35 from Guinea-Bissau).

II. COMPOSITION OF THE FORCE

A. French components

1. Inter-service elements

- (a) An inter-service command post (PCIAT - 305 troops);
- (b) A rapid-intervention military medical unit (EMMIR - 46 troops) and a "bioforce" component (18 troops);
- (c) A specialized detachment with 5 helicopters (220 troops);
- (d) Three detachments of the Armed Forces Petrol Service (35 troops).

2. Air Force and Navy elements

(a) A unit of four Mirage F1CRs, four Mirage F1CTs, one Atlantic, two C-135 FRs, two Casa 235s, six tactical cargo aircraft (C-130s and C-160s), and two SA.330 (SAR) helicopters. The total number of troops is 348.

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3. Army elements

- (a) Four motorized infantry companies (580 troops);
- (b) A 12-vehicle light armoured car squadron (130 troops);
- (c) One six-piece and one four-piece heavy mortar section (115 troops);
- (d) An Engineers Section (25 troops);
- (e) A logistical support battalion (450 troops);
- (f) A detachment of Army light aircraft (ALAT) with three Puma helicopters (60 troops) and three Gazelle helicopters;
- (g) Two tactical headquarters (62 troops);
- (h) A command and service company (150 troops).

4. Means of the National Gendarmerie

A provost detachment (10 troops).

B. African components

- (a) Two Senegalese infantry companies (243 troops);
- (b) A Chadian section (44 troops);
- (c) A section from Guinea-Bissau (35 troops);
- (d) A Mauritanian medical detachment (10 troops);
- (e) Egyptian observers (7 troops).

Since 25 July, other units provided by a number of African countries have been integrated into the Force (86 Chadians, 43 Nigerians and 45 Congolese).

III. DEPLOYMENT AND ACTION TAKEN

After the initial phase, the deployment of Turquoise Force in Rwandese territory has taken effect since 9 July in the districts of Kibuye, Cyangugu and Gikongoro, forming the safe humanitarian zone (ZHS) (see appendix I). The African units were integrated into the troop contingent as they arrived.

The activities of Turquoise Force have included reconnaissance, ensuring the security of the zone, assistance to displaced persons and the extrication of persons at risk.

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Apart from a few trivial incidents essentially arising out of differences that have since been settled concerning the delimitation of the zone and involving the forces of the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) at the perimeter of the safe humanitarian zone around 15 July, the action taken by Turquoise Force has primarily been to provide assistance to refugees, given the dramatic manner in which the situation evolved, to collect and bury the bodies of victims of epidemics or starvation and to transport and distribute water and food in Zaire (Goma and Bukavu) and in the safe humanitarian zone.

Measures to ensure security are still being taken because of the presence of looters on the perimeter of the zone.

IV. EVALUATION OF THE SITUATION

After taking Butare on 4 July 1994, the RPF gained control successively of Ruhengeri on 13 July and Gisenyi on 17 July before reaching the Zairan frontier at Goma on 18 July.

The Rwandese Armed Forces fled to Zaire, for the most part directly through Goma, committing a number of excesses along the way. Those who crossed through the safe humanitarian zone - and headed towards Bukavu in Zaire - and those who were there at the time Turquoise Force was deployed agreed to surrender their weapons.

As the fighting progressed, people from the north and centre of the country headed in large numbers towards Zaire (about 1.2 million) and towards the safe humanitarian zone (more than 1.5 million).

The participants in this uncontrolled exodus are being ravaged by an epidemic of cholera (at Goma) and by exhaustion and malnutrition in certain camps in Zaire as well as in the safe humanitarian zone.

Despite the help of Turquoise Force and of humanitarian organizations, the assistance provided is inadequate in volume and coordination among non-governmental organizations is lacking.

Since 21 July, almost 100,000 displaced persons who had been in the Kibuye and Musange regions have left the safe humanitarian zone, while some 10,000 refugees had returned from Goma as of 25 July. The movement of persons from Goma has increased since that time. It has been noted recently that some displaced persons are returning to the safe humanitarian zone.

V. HUMANITARIAN ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN

A. General situation

The refugees in the Goma area (of whom there are nearly 1 million) are in a catastrophic situation owing to the lack of drinking water and food. Exhaustion and cholera are causing havoc despite the emergency assistance provided by France and, for several days, by other parties.

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In the safe humanitarian zone, the people (some 2 million) are becoming calmer owing to the arrival of humanitarian aid, which nevertheless remains inadequate. Stability is precarious, but a tentative movement of return towards the east can be discerned.

Humanitarian action by Turquoise makes it possible to provide for the most urgent cases with the means available, but any action undertaken will only be able to mitigate this humanitarian disaster when the long-awaited international assistance enters into full effect.

B. Humanitarian activities

The following can be listed:

- (a) Contacts with the Western European Union on needs assessment;
- (b) Receipt and distribution of 340 tons of government aid (see appendix II);
- (c) Evacuation of more than 2,800 people (see appendix III);
- (d) Medical assistance at Goma and Cyangugu (see appendix IV);
- (e) Coordination of flights into the airport at Goma;
- (f) Management of the air-bridge from the inter-service operational centre on 20 and 21 July;
- (g) Distribution of water (approximately 100 cubic metres per day) to the camps and orphanages of the Goma area;
- (h) Engineering works (terracing and digging of mass graves);
- (i) Dissemination of information through the dropping of leaflets (see appendix V);
- (j) Coordination of humanitarian activities with NGOs and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA);
- (k) Extemporized and every-day assistance to NGOs cruelly lacking in means of transport, water, medication and foodstuffs;
- (l) Establishment of a "bioforce" to study prophylactic measures in order to check the outbreak of epidemics.

C. Human rights

Abuses have been noted in the safe humanitarian zone despite the relative calm. Flagrant human rights violations have been directly observed by French soldiers and have been reported by civilians (adults and children).

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All the information collected on the spot is being recorded by the Goma humanitarian unit to be forwarded to the Commission of Experts established pursuant to paragraph 1 of Security Council resolution 935 (1994) of 1 July 1994.

VI. ASSESSMENT OF THE CONDUCT OF THE OPERATION

Operation Turquoise, undertaken in implementation of Security Council resolution 929 (1994), has successfully ensured the security of the area assigned to it without major difficulties.

At the humanitarian level, however, Turquoise Force is not sufficiently large to cope with the massive flows of refugees in the safe humanitarian zone or in the territory of Zaire. Because international organizations and NGOs have been slow to react, the situation at the humanitarian level has taken on a catastrophic character (lack of water and food; dysentery and cholera).

The delivery of massive assistance, which can finally be expected, will encounter distribution difficulties owing to the inadequacy of airport and road infrastructure.

The French forces have begun to disengage, and Turquoise Force has begun to be replaced by UNAMIR II forces in the Gikongoro sector.

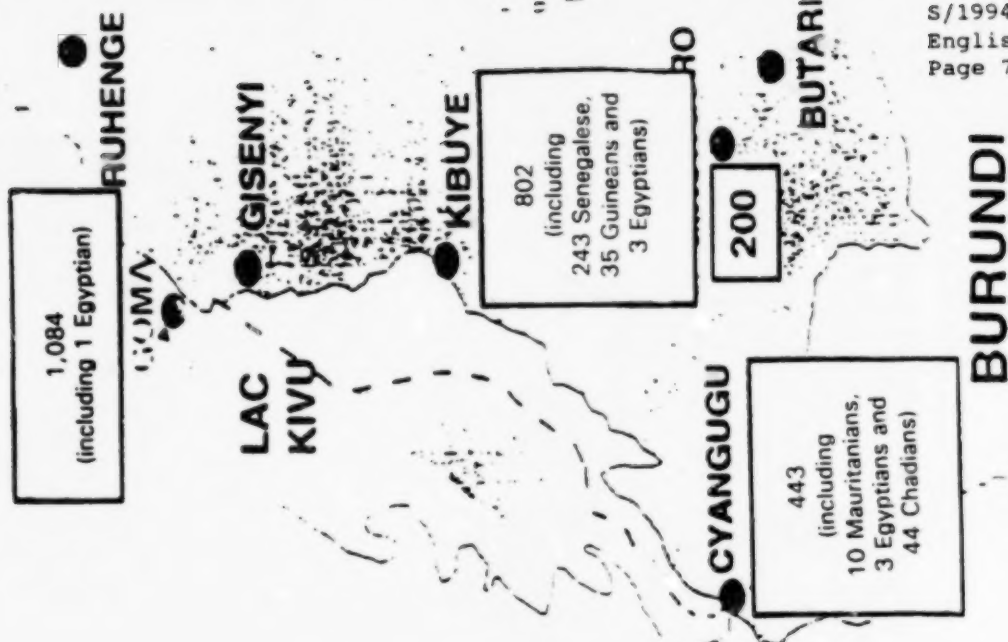
BANGUI

850 KM

KISANGANI

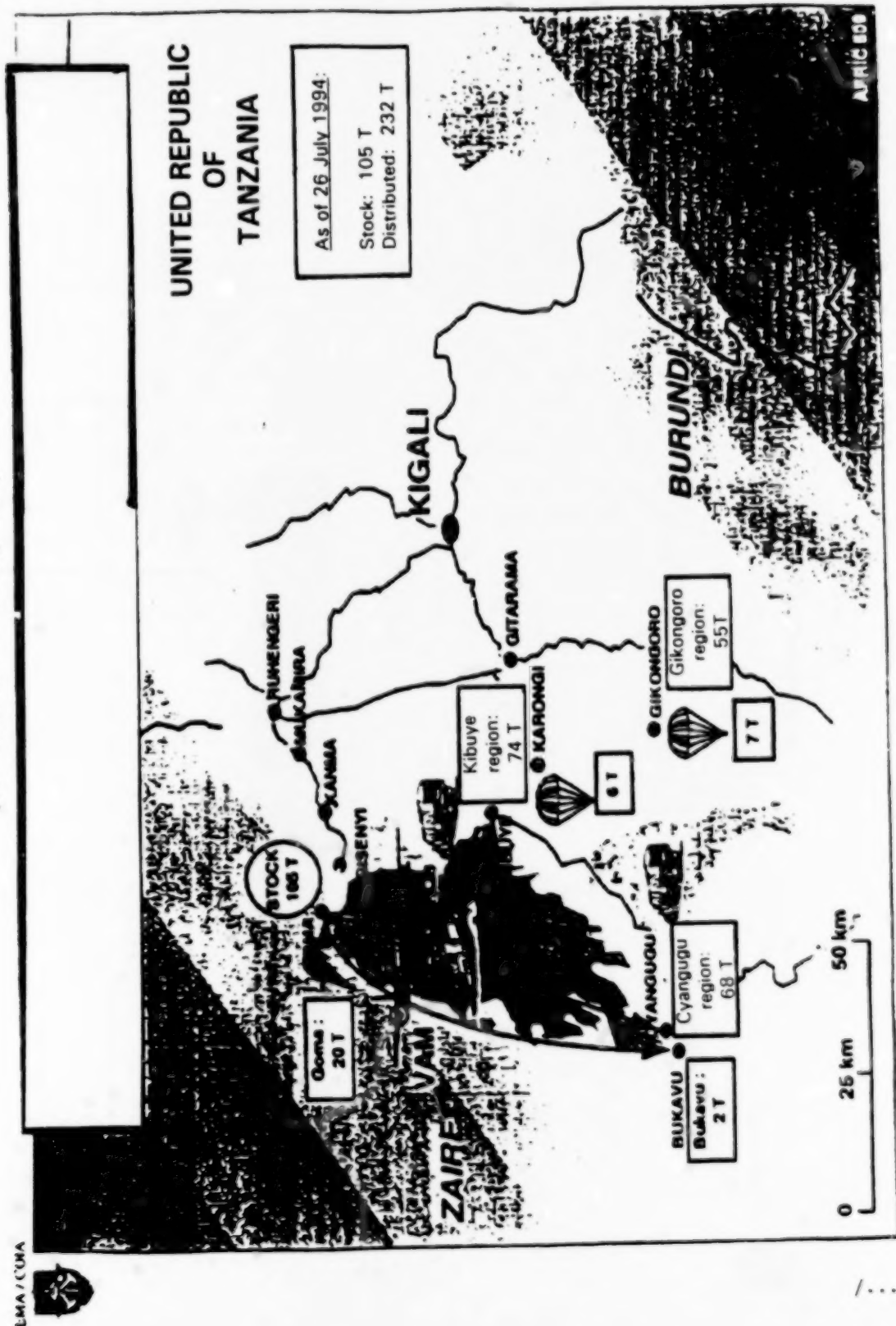
344

500 Km

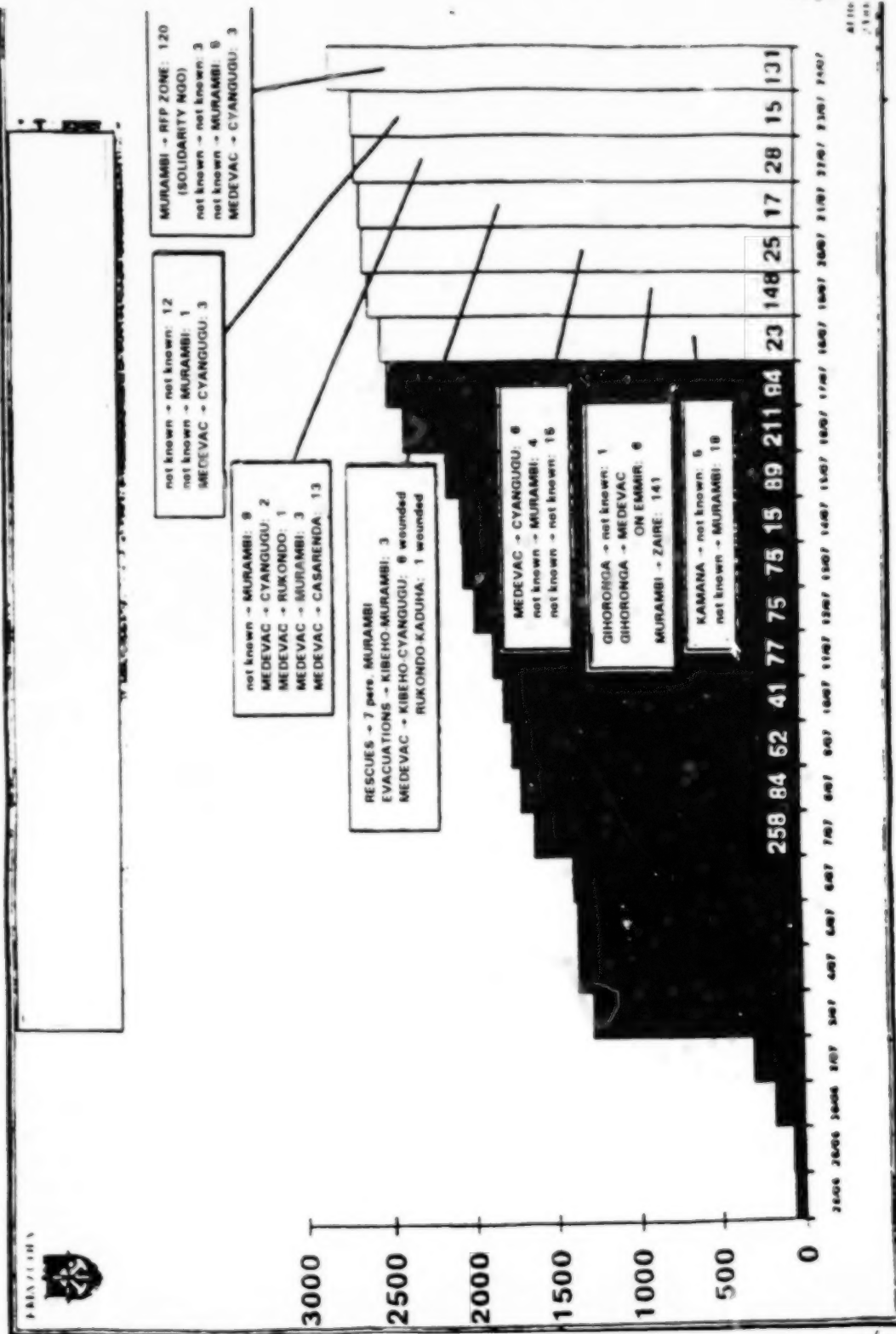
Turquoise deploymentAppendix I**ZAIRE****"TURQUOISE" DEPLOYMENT**

As of 25 July 1994	
IN RWANDA (including 338 foreigners)	1,445
IN ZAIRE (including 1 foreigner)	1,449
TOTAL (including 339 foreigners)	2,894

Distribution of government aid
(337 tons as of 26 July 1994)



Cumulative record of evacuations
(Total of 2,817 as of 25 July 1994)



Appendix IV

Health care provided to the local people

(As at 26 July 1994)

Consultations	3,364
Hospital admissions (Forward Surgical Unit (ACA) and Rapid-Intervention Military Medical Unit (EMMIR))	556
Surgical procedures	352

Appendix V

Leaflet dropped from the air

OPERATION TURQUOISE

**AVIS A LA POPULATION
RWANDAISE**

Vous êtes maintenant dans la zone humanitaire sûre, protégée
par l'Armée Française.

Ne vous déplacez plus.

Restez sur place, l'aide humanitaire va vous
parvenir.

Soyez sans crainte, l'Armée Française veille sur
votre sécurité.

Translation

Operation Turquoise

To the Rwandese People

You are now in the safe humanitarian zone protected by the French Army.

Do not go on.

Stay where you are, and humanitarian assistance will reach you.

Do not be afraid. The French Army will protect you.
